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INCLUSION OF A NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION IN THE REGISTER IN CONFORMITY WITH DECISION 43 (VII) OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. The National Centre for Overseas Development (NCOS), a national non-governmental organization, recently applied for inclusion in the Register of such bodies provided for under Board decision 43 (VII), sections III and IV.

2. In accordance with Board decision 43 (VII) and further to consultations with the member State concerned, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD has included NCOS in the Register.

3. Information concerning NCOS is annexed to this note.

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Annex

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT

Brief History

1. The organization was established in Belgium in 1966 as a pluralist organization by leaders of the main political parties in order to place the issue of development beyond party politics. The membership has since increased to cover the majority of the Flemish non-governmental organization community and 300 local groups.

Aims and objectives

2. According to article 3 of its Articles of Association, the principal objectives of NCOS are to: encourage cooperative action with partners from the third world by providing support with these partners for projects and programmes directed at disadvantaged groups; build up cooperative relationships by taking the views of these partners into account when formulating policy views; make information more widely available and provide resources for influencing public opinion in the area of overseas development; motivate cooperation among those non-governmental organizations involved with overseas development and make known their achievements; carry out research, adopt policies, and carry out campaigns to improve the macroeconomic position of third world countries; organize publicity campaigns and fund-raising on behalf of the member committees, partner organizations in the third world and non-governmental organizations; undertake discussions on joint political positions, joint aid policy and the joint duty to make their secretariats available to member committees and non-governmental organizations involved in overseas development; coordinate and supervise municipal and province-level committees with the intention of establishing a grass-roots level interest in development issues.

Membership

3. NCOS consists of non-governmental organizations in the Flemish community as well as approximately 300 local groups in Brussels and Flanders.

Structure

4. The organs of NCOS are the annual General Meeting; the Board of Directors, elected by the General Meeting for a period of three years, which is responsible for the management of the Centre; and a Bureau of six people established by the Board of Directors to take care of current personnel matters, making payments for projects and preparing meetings of the Board of Directors. There are also four Councils responsible for specific areas of work - development education, projects, policy and education. The secretariat has approximately 100 full-time staff. There is a provincial secretariat in each of the five Flemish provinces.

Financial resources

5. The Centre's resources are derived principally from funds from its annual fund-raising campaign (BF 180,000,000), sales of materials, State and European Union co-financing of projects and subsidies, government grants, legacies, gifts, interest payments and subscriptions.

Relations with other international organizations

6. NCOS maintains close working relations with many United Nations organs and bodies, including the United Nations Development Programme, as well as other international organizations.

Publications

7. NCOS publishes a monthly magazine "De Wereld Morgen", monthly magazines in the five provinces and brochures on third world issues in cooperation with other non-governmental organizations.

Liaison

8. Liaison with UNCTAD will be maintained by the Head of the Research Department, Mr. Rudy De Meyer.

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10. The official language of the Centre is Dutch; the working language is English.